

FIMLA AGM July 31, 2021 Minutes

The 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association (FIMLA) was held at the home of Richard Nageleisen and Janine Knackstedt on Saturday, July 31, 2021. 36 members attended. 3 members who were unable to attend voted by proxy.

1. Welcome – Mary Rae

FIMLA President, Mary Rae called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Mary welcomed everyone and expressed thanks to Richard and Janine for hosting the meeting this year. The meeting was held on their front lawn under a cloudless sky. Coffee and muffins were provided by some members of the executive. Several new members of FIMLA introduced themselves to the group.

2. 2020 AGM Minutes Mary Rae

The 2020 Minutes were published in the Spring 2021 newsletter. Copies were available at the AGM. Mary Rae briefly reviewed items reported in the 2020 AGM minutes. Mary asked for corrections or additions to the draft of the 2020 AGM minutes. No changes were noted.

Resolution 2021-1

Be it resolved to accept the 2020 AGM Minutes as presented in the 2021 Spring Newsletter.

Moved by Marj Peart; Seconded by Anne Tucker.

Motion voted on and carried.

3. 2020 Financial Report and 2021 Proposed budget – Karen De Luca

Karen reviewed the FIMLA 2020 Financial Report as of December 31, 2020 and the 2021 Proposed budget (copies of each were provided in the Spring 2021 newsletter and were available at the AGM). Karen expressed thanks to all those who have contributed to the Gord Rodgers FIMLA Reserve (Dam Fund) over the past year.

Mary noted that FIMLA receives membership fees and donations each year. It is not always specified that the donations go to the Gord Rodgers FIMLA Reserve. This reserve was set up for future projects for the preservation of the watershed, such as the dam. The executive has been recording any excess funds as part of the reserve, however, for transparency and clarity at the end of the year, Mary recommended that the membership pass a general motion to transfer all money in excess of the operating expenses each year into the reserve.

Resolution 2021-2

Be it resolved that the 2020 Financial Statement and 2021 Proposed Budget be accepted as set out in the 2021 Spring Newsletter and presented at the July 31, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by Joe Buckley; seconded by Linda Kreick.

Motion voted on and carried.

Resolution 2021-3

Be it resolved that any funds in excess of \$1,300, or such other amount as deemed advisable by the Board of Directors, be retained in operating funds each year, and the excess, if any, be transferred to the Gord Rodgers FIMLA Reserve.

Moved by Susan Pine; seconded by Dan Gilbert.

Motion voted on and carried.

4. Fundraising Update – Karen De Luca & Mary Rae

Karen De Luca provided an update on the amount of money raised for the dam to date being \$25,905

The Township council has agreed to contribute \$15,000 towards the dam project.

FIMLA also applied for a \$10,000 grant from the Lake Ecosystem Grant Program. The grant was just submitted this week, so it is not yet known whether or not FIMLA will be receiving grant funds.

A request went out to all attendees to make the executive aware of any grant projects which may come available.

5. Dam Update – Mary Rae

Mary provided an update on the work completed by D.M. Wills Associates to date, and next steps.

Wills conducted a site visit in July of last year and submitted a proposal for engineering services for the dam. They proposed that the work be completed in two phases – Phase 1 involved: a structural inspection of the dam and topographic survey; preparation of a report outlining the scope of the recommended repairs; a summary of the permitting requirements; and, the feasibility of adding a rocky ramp to the structure. The Phase 1 work has been completed – at a cost of \$9,616.30. Wills report recommended repairs to the dam including crack injection, replacement of the top slab, replacement of the drains and sluice wall and installation of drains in the downstream face. The estimated construction costs are \$141,000 plus HST.

The Phase 2 work includes: undertaking a scoped dam safety assessment, which is required for permitting purposes; completing detailed design drawings and specifications; securing the required permits and approvals from the MNRF and Quinte Conservation; and retaining a contractor to undertake the rehabilitation work. Wills just submitted a detailed fee schedule for the dam safety assessment and detailed design for \$41,910.

Wills estimated that without rehabilitation, the dam may exhibit failure in 5 years. Therefore, FIMLA is aiming to raise the necessary funds in the next 3 years. To keep moving on this project, and to be ready for any funding opportunities, the Board is proposing to start with some of the Phase 2 work, while we are still fundraising. Specifically, we could proceed with the scoped dam safety assessment, at a cost of around \$12,000. We could also get started with preparation of the detailed design. The permitting process will have to start closer to the construction date, as the permits are only valid for 2 years.

Discussion:

A question came up regarding the downstream effects of a dam failure and whether the downstream landowners should be contacted to see if they

would be willing to contribute to the repairs to the dam, as they would be directly impacted by a failure of the dam.

Geoff Rae suggested that once the repairs are completed, we look into transferring responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the dam to an outside organization such as a Conservation Authority.

It was also suggested that we look at a map of the FIMLA area as it existed in the 1800's. This is what the area could look like again if the dam were to fail. Joe Buckley may have access to such a map.

Resolution 2021-4

Be it resolved that the FIMLA Board of Directors be authorized to proceed with Phase 2 of the proposal from D.M. Wills Associates Limited, dated September 17, 2020, as funds permit, and to pay the associated costs from the FIMLA bank account.

Moved by Geoff Rae; seconded by Richard Nageleisen.

Motion voted on and carried.

6. Incorporation of FIMLA – Mary Rae

Mary advised that the Board has been exploring the possibility of funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

John McDougall has had experience with the OTF and its mandate and spoke to the membership on this topic. John said that the OTF has been funding Covid relief almost exclusively and that projects such as ours would not be considered as long as Covid relief was the OTF's main focus.

However, he believes that the OTF is now at least looking at other grant applications. Our project may fulfil the requirements of a successful bid. OTF will only look at applications from organizations which have incorporated and have been viable for at least 1 year. It was recommended that FIMLA pursue the process of incorporation so that we might apply in 1 year for an OTF grant. This would fit our timeline well given the preparatory work necessary to complete the dam project.

Mary discussed the requirements for incorporation. Incorporation offers certain advantages; and in the case of OTF funding, is required. But, there are also certain responsibilities once incorporated. In the case of our lake association, we would incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation – an organization that carries on activities without monetary gain. There is a

filing fee of \$155, plus a fee to do a name search of around \$40 – so about \$200 total. There are requirements to file annual returns, and to conduct our affairs in accordance with the applicable statutes. For example, the election of directors and the calling of meetings of members, certain record keeping requirements are all governed by the *Corporations Act*. There are also audit requirements, however, where the corporation's annual income is less than \$100,000 and where a resolution is passed by at least 80% of the votes cast by members at a general meeting to not appoint an auditor and to not have an audit, the corporation is exempt from a financial audit.

John McDougall and Mary Rae were both thanked for the expertise they bring to this endeavour.

Resolution 2021-5

Be it resolved that the FIMLA Board of Directors be authorized to incorporate the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association (FIMLA) as a non-profit corporation, if required for eligibility for funding for dam repairs.

Moved by Tom Raycroft; seconded by Marj Peart.

Motion voted on and carried.

7. Other Business

Mary Rae asked that those who use the boat launch at Willy's Lane contribute \$35 to the Willy's Lane Road Association to assist the association in keeping the road maintained. E-transfers may be made to Marj Peart at marjpeart@gmail.com. Information on this topic is also available on the website: www.fimla.ca.

Marj also brought up the point about bait dumping into our lakes. It was suggested that information on this topic be sent to all FIMLA owners and be made available to any renters who may be fishing our lakes. It would be the responsibility for all owners who rent their homes to communicate this information to the person renting their lake home.

The **FIMLA Facebook Page** and website www.fimla.ca were promoted as excellent communication tools for FIMLA members.

8. Adjournment

Mary Rae asked for a motion to adjourn the AGM at 12:01 pm. The motion was moved by Anne Tucker; seconded by Deb Gilbert. Everyone was thanked for attending.

Minutes prepared by Craig Pettis